

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

January 31, 2012

The secondhand retail industry is one which serves many public benefits beyond extending the life cycle of various consumer products. Many of these stores and facilities are operated by longstanding charitable organizations that provide job-training and employment opportunities as well as social services for Los Angeles County residents. The County benefits from the secondhand retail industry as more used goods sold in their retail stores potentially results in fewer items being discarded in the County's landfills. The merchants, vendors and charitable organizations who operate secondhand retail operations have expressed a desire to modify zoning standards to make it easier to establish secondhand retail stores within the unincorporated portions of the County.

Currently, the County Zoning Ordinance limits sales of all secondhand consumer products as a permitted use in the C-3, C-M, and all manufacturing zones. The current ordinance classifies secondhand retail stores in the same category as used car lots and pawnshops, uses that frequently have significant impacts on surrounding areas.

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Existing zoning provisions have significantly constrained growth in the secondhand retail industry by restricting them to the C-3 zone and above. Secondhand retail stores do not have any neighborhood impacts that would be more significant than retail stores selling new products provided that certain factors such as outdoor collection, storage and staging areas are addressed.

To better serve the community and the many charitable organizations operating in the unincorporated areas of the County, it would be appropriate to amend the County Zoning Ordinance to accommodate more secondhand retail stores by allowing secondhand stores that do not have drop-off areas in the C-2 zone, subject to a site plan review. Secondhand stores with drop-off collection areas are allowed in the C-2 Zone, subject to approval of a Minor Conditional Use Permit.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Department of Regional Planning prepare the proposed ordinance revisions to Title 22 of the County Code that would allow secondhand retail stores in the C-2 zone subject to a site plan approval or minor conditional use permit, depending if the facility is proposing drop-off collection or outdoor storage areas in the unincorporated areas of the County, and that the Regional Planning Commission conduct a public hearing prior to September 30, 2012, and forward its recommendations on the proposed ordinance revisions to the Board for its consideration.

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DK:jtm